

SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT  
FOR IMPROVED EFFICIENCY IN NETWORK ASSESSMENT  
UTILIZING A PORT STATUS PRE-QUALIFICATION  
PROCEDURE

**ABSTRACT**

A system, method and computer program product are provided for minimizing the duration of a risk-assessment scan. Initially, a plurality of risk-assessment modules are selected each including vulnerability checks associated with a risk-assessment scan. Thereafter, a first set of ports is determined. Such first set of ports is required for communicating with network components subject to the risk-assessment modules associated with the risk-assessment scan. A port scan is subsequently executed on the first set of ports. Based on such port scan, a second set of ports is determined which includes ports unavailable for communicating with the network components subject to the risk-assessment modules associated with the risk-assessment scan. The risk-assessment modules associated with the second set of ports may then be disabled to minimize the duration of the risk-assessment scan.